

## THE ANTIQUARY.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9th, 1871.

## THE TIMES ON ARCHÆOLOGICAL EXCURSIONS.

THE love of the past and of all its relics is firmly adherent in the human mind. From the possessor of a kingdom to the day-labourer on the land, the curiosity about antiquity is found in every rank of life.

That this is an incontrovertible fact is proved by the distinguished persons who patronise antiquarian societies, and the eagerness with which the humblest peasant listens to an account of coins or other antiquities that have been lately found near his place of residence. But the *Times*, "Jupiter Tonans," has lately sent down a literary storm upon the British Archaeological Association on the occasion of its recent visit to Weymouth. Nor did Jupiter content himself with fulminating on the members of the Archaeological Association only, he scathed the Mayor and Corporation upon their "native dulness," which, as Jupiter is accountable for the "native" disposition of all the world, must have been imbibed from Jupiter himself. Jupiter certainly could not then have been very placid, or he would never have twitted the society with such a fault as its "long name."

What's in a name? If the archaeologists are mere aspirants to learned honours under false pretences, pretending to extend the boundaries of antiquarian knowledge, but in reality only making up pic-nic parties, practising flirtations, and bottling specimens of crystal streams, they would be no better if their name were monosyllabically short. Jupiter was certainly inclined to call names on that day, as he called an antiquary a curious anomaly, mocked at his looking for his British ancestor, and sneeringly admitted that the very best antiquarian was only fit for the drudgery of picking up "scraps, and fragments of ancient life, for future bards and romancers." What did Jupiter mean by that? Had he forgotten that a fine antiquary, Sir W. Scott, was also a bard and romancer of the highest calibre?

We claim more for those gentlemen who have devoted themselves to dignified researches into the past, than that of being mere jackals, providers for the princely bards and romancers; and we do not think their highnesses the said bards and romancers would look down with disdain on the archaeologists, or find fault with them for trying to *desipere in loco* and to *miscere utile dulci* as the Thunderer did when he told them they changed themselves into a Guide-book, and were conspiring to make "learned people foolish and idle people conceited." What is Jupiter himself but a Guide-book? which it would often be better for his subjects if they did not always travel by, since they would sometimes find a better road by the exercise of their own discretion.

It is written that, "God loveth not size," and that small and great are relative terms, needful indeed for poor human

nature; but the chief of the *Dii Majores*, Jupiter tonans, ought to be able to discern that even pic-nics, flirtations, and becoming a Guide-book may all contribute to provide additional materials for future bards and romancers.

## THE AGGLESTONE.

AT the recent meeting of the British Archaeological Association at Weymouth, Mr. T. B. Groves, of that town, presented to the society several photographs of the Agglestone, near Studland, overlooking Poole Harbour. His object in having these photographs taken was to give the archaeologists an opportunity of forming an opinion as to the true character of this remarkable group, the time at the disposal of the party being too limited to allow of a visit to the Agglestone itself.

Mr. Groves has just favoured me with a copy of his remarks on the Agglestone, of which he says—"The stone is situate on the heath about a mile from Studland. Its neighbourhood is barren and dreary, yet possesses a certain charm for the lover of wild natural scenery. It can scarcely be approached by wheel conveyance, though there is a track used by turf-cutters that leads up to the crest of the hill that overlooks it. The heath hereabouts undulates a good deal, so that Agglestone when approached from the Corfe side, cannot be seen until one has arrived within a few hundred yards of it. It then forms a very striking object, and at once becomes the chief point of interest in the vast panorama, including Poole, Poole Harbour, the Little Sea, and Studland, with the more distant Hampshire coast and the Isle of Wight, that now meets the view. In its vicinity several barrows are to be found, that are believed to be of artificial formation. Puckstone is the name given to one that resembles Agglestone in character, but the stone on its summit has fallen down. Its name is derived from *Puck*, the Anglo-Saxon for "fiend." Various derivations have been suggested for Agglestone. Some say that its first syllable is taken from *Hagge*, A.S. for "witch," others from *Eggel*, A.S. for "sharp," others again affirm that *Halig*, A.S. for "holy," is its true derivation. The country people call it the "Devil's Night-cap," and have a tradition that it was hurled by his satanic majesty from the Isle of Wight for the purpose of destroying Corfe Castle, but that it dropped short in the place where we now find it. The stone is supposed to weigh about 400 tons. Its shape is irregular, and the rock of which it is composed is known here as heath-stone, a coarse-grained sandstone, the cementing matters of which are carbonate of lime and peroxide of iron. Geologically it is referred to the series of strata that immediately overlaid the Bagshot formation, of which the heath consists. It undoubtedly stands in its original position, and owes its preservation to its greater hardness having enabled it to resist the denuding action that removed the rest of the stratum from its neighbourhood. It has been said that the stone was originally larger, and that considerable quantities of it were carried away for use in building; but from the inspection of the quality of the stone, and of the track that leads to it, I attach little importance to the statement. Whilst one can positively affirm that the stone was not raised to its present position by human agency, it is by no means improbable that it owes its figure to that cause. Certainly

the conical hill on which it stands has all the look of having been artificially shaped. I will conclude by giving the dimensions of the stone, and of the hill, as I find them in Hutchins. The conical hill is 90 ft. in perpendicular height, the slope of the steepest (the east) side is 300 ft.; on the west it is much less steep. It is clothed with heather, gorse and fern. Agglestone is 18 ft. high, girth at bottom is 60 ft., in the middle, 80 ft., near the top, 90 ft. Several smaller stones, one of sixteen, another of nine tons, or thereabouts, are found on the top of the hill by the side of the greater stone. The dimensions of the Puckstone are about 10 ft. by 8 ft.\*

Many vague and unsupported theories have been broached at different times respecting the Agglestone. Thus it has been called by some a *cromlech*, and by others a *logan* or *rocking stone*, and even a *rock idol*.\* There is not the slightest evidence to show that it is a *cromlech*; neither is there any proof that it is an unfinished logan stone or a rock-idol; names given to it by antiquaries when indulging in fanciful speculations. In the west of England, on Dartmoor and the Cornish hills, are many curious piles of rocks which are now regarded as strictly *natural* formations, and nothing else, by the judicious antiquary, and yet these have quite as much claim to be called *cromlechs*, &c., as the Dorset Agglestone. It is therefore necessary to be very guarded when assigning any use for these fantastic groups, of which the Agglestone, in Dorset, the Tolmen (now destroyed) and Cheesewring in Cornwall, and the Toad Rock, and Great-upon-Little, in Sussex, are examples. Mr. Charles Warne, once a resident in the county, and the author, among other works, of a valuable *Index* to Dorset Antiquities, wisely places the Agglestone among "Uncertain Remains," at the same time observing that "the more sober will regard it as nothing more than a natural stone singularly placed." This I feel assured is the true explanation of the origin of the Agglestone; but that it has served as a landmark through successive ages will readily be granted from the conspicuous position which it occupies.

E. H. W. D.

Sept. 2, 1871.

#### THE 34TH "CUMBERLAND" REGIMENT.

THE event in which the 34th feel most pride, and in which the regiment was most conspicuous was at Arroyo de Molinos, while assisting to cut off the retreat of the French army, the regiment came in collision with the French 34th, the whole of which corps they captured, taking prisoners the colonel, Prince d'Arenberg, and General de Brun. The English 34th came out of action with the French 34th caps on their heads, carrying off as trophies the brass drums, and having wrenched the staff from the French drum-major. For this exploit the regiment was afterwards allowed to wear the French red and white pompon in their caps, and have ever since kept the French drums as trophies, and carried in front of the regiment the drum-major's staff.

The 34th received the Royal authority to bear the words "Arroyo dos Molinos" on the regimental colour for their behaviour on this occasion. Sergeant Moses Simpson, the individual who actually took the staff from the drum-major of the French 34th, afterwards filled the situation of barrack-sergeant at Northampton, and has been presented by the officers of the 34th with a handsome medal, in commemoration of his gallant conduct.

\* Hutchins' "Dorset," 2nd edition, Introduction, p. 23.

#### S. NINIAN'S CAVE, WHITHORN.

THE cave of S. Ninian is only a fragment of what it must originally have been. The rocks which had formed its outer side have tumbled down, and the pilgrim must reach the entrance of the present cave over the *débris* of their ruin, while the surface of the rocks which remain have become disintegrated, so that any carvings that might originally have been on the walls have disappeared. During the recent visit of a party from Monreith, of which the Dean of Westminster, and Dr. John Stuart, of Edinburgh, were members, it was observed that on a panel, about twenty-five feet to the south-west of the present cave, of which the original surface remained, there was cut the figure of a cross, about nine inches in height, and resembling in character some of the crosses in the caves of Fife. It is not unreasonable, therefore, to suppose that there had originally been other carvings on the walls of the cave, of which the specimen just discovered is only one; and that thus we may imagine the great instructor of the Southern Picts, having here made his retreat, like Kentigern, the Apostle of Strathclyde, whom his biographer pictures at the mouth of his cave in the attitude of prayer, and enjoying the indescribable sweetness of his solitude. To the traveller who now visits the sadly-neglected ruins of Whithorn, it is not easy to recall the early importance of the spot, or to enter into the feeling which drew to it pilgrims from every part of the British islands. The present condition of the ruins betokens that S. Ninian's memory has been greatly forgotten, and it would be a worthy object, for those who have the power, to rescue them from the degradation and neglect which have overtaken them.—*Scotsman*.

JONES OF URICONIUM.—Few persons who have visited the excavations on the site of the Roman city of Uriconium, near Shrewsbury, are likely to have forgotten Jones, the care-taker, whose genuine archaeological enthusiasm contrasted so oddly with his rustic accent and unlettered phraseology. Though commissioned by his employers to levy sixpences on the curious in aid of the fund for carrying on the explorations, Jones had none of that sharp-eyed eagerness for lucre which characterises the professional exhibitor of ruins or the typical verger who accompanies little groups of sightseers round the choirs of our cathedrals. It was always easy to see that he had caught the true antiquarian fervour, as he went about restoring some tile to its place, or tenderly moving a charred bone or fragment of pottery out of the way of visitors' footsteps. Under these circumstances it is with some regret that we learn that Jones's occupation is gone, since the receipts no longer pay even for taking care of this spot, which, by a pardonable exaggeration has been described as "the British Pompeii." Hence, we are told on Good Friday last "dreadful damage" was done to the Roman remains, and it is to be feared that worse may follow. Surely, however, if sixpences fall short, there is enough interest among the learned to secure Jones the modest stipend of a labourer's wages. We are, it must be confessed, somewhat careless of our antiquities. More than a century and a half has elapsed since a man digging in the fields first discovered tokens of this once famous city, whose very site had become uncertain; but it was not until some twelve years ago that a systematic plan of excavation was adopted by a local society. The explorations, though hitherto very slight, have been in the highest degree interesting. If they must be suspended for want of funds, we trust at least that what has been already laid bare may not be exposed to the mercies of the visitors who spent last Good Friday in destroying the most perfect specimen of a Roman hypocaust. In short, we look to the learned, and above all, to the Mayor and Town Council of Shrewsbury to place the remains of Uriconium once more under Jones's watchful eye.—*The Graphic*.

## DISCOVERY OF A STONE COFFIN AT HIGH ONGAR.

"A FEW days since, as some labourers were cutting a trench at the back entrance road leading to Wash Hall Farm, High Ongar, occupied by Mrs. Walker, they discovered, about 6 inches from the surface, in a transverse direction from the road to the bank, a stone coffin, the lid of which was 6 inches thick, 6 feet 8 inches long by 2 feet 2 inches wide. It has a slight ridge in the middle, but there is no inscription thereon. After breaking part of the lid in pieces, four men were able to lift up the larger portion, so as to examine the interior, but they found only three or four bones therein. The bottom of the coffin still remains in the ground. It appears on examination to have been cut or chiselled out of a block of Portland stone, of the size of the lid, and about 18 inches deep, leaving the sides, end, and bottom 4 inches in thickness, the inside of the coffin being 6 feet by 18 inches for the reception of the body. The spot where it was found is nearly a quarter of a mile from the church, and nearly one mile east of Ongar Castle Mount, on the summit of which a few bricks only now remain. The coffin will remain open for a time, to afford those interested therein an opportunity of examining it. Some of our Essex antiquarians will doubtless be able to afford us some information concerning it."

This interesting discovery noticed in the *Essex Weekly News*, is a subject worthy of notice, and will prove doubtless of some interest to the archaeologists of the county of Essex. The relic is of considerable antiquity, probably of Roman or Saxon origin. I am inclined to receive it as belonging to the latter period, in consequence of the locality in which it was found. Prior to the survey, Ongar was for the most part a wood. Morant considers the name of Saxon derivation. The fact, however, of the coffin being buried so far from the old church, and of its massive form, strongly recommends it as being a very early interment; but owing to the absence of any portion of caligraphy found upon it will, I fear, exclude the hope of fixing its precise data, as well as the name of the character whose remains it contained. Cemeteries have been mentioned as late as Edward II., existing some considerable distance from the parish church, set apart for the burial of the humbler classes of parishioners; while kings and noblemen were buried in the church. Among the ancient Britons, stone coffins, as most of your readers are aware, were generally used for persons of eminence. Such are to be found in barrows, together with Roman urns, &c. The kistvaen, or coffin, was composed of rough stones, set edgewise, and covered with flat stones. In mediæval times stone coffins were in general use for persons of distinction, but the common people were, however, only wrapped in cloth, and so put into the earth. It appears that at the first erection of churches no part of the adjacent ground was allotted for the interment of the dead, but some place for this purpose was appointed at a further distance, and the place of inhumation was without the walls of populous towns, according to the old Roman law of the twelve tables—first, indefinitely by the wayside, then in some peculiar inclosure assigned to that use. Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, seems to have been the first who brought up the practice of using vaults in chancels (see Burn's "Ecclesiastical Law," vol. i., p. 236). The coffin in question appears not unlike a Roman sarcophagus discovered on a farm in the parish of Hazleleigh, in 1838. Another similar one was found in Stoney Hill Field, in the parish of Ramsden Bellhouse, about two feet from the surface. A valuable article on this may be found in the "Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society," vol. iii. The county of Essex has long been considered rich in Roman sepulchral relics. An old writer states that stone coffins were not in

use after the 13th century, except on rare occasions. This is questioned by Mr. Lethieullier, who, speaking of those in Westminster Abbey, affirms that if this is correct "we have an era from whence to go upwards in search of any of these monuments where the stone coffin appears."—"Archæologia," vol. ii., p. 298.

Waltham Abbey.

W. WINTERS.

## SHOEBURY.

SHOE-BURY, literally "horse-shoe fort," represents the site of a Danish encampment, attributed to the sea-king Hastein, who lived about one thousand years ago.

It is of a horse-shoe shape, and has thus given a permanent name to the peninsula called Shoebury-ness (*quasi*, nose or point). It is very distinctly laid down in the Ordnance maps, but, since the date of that survey, it has been enclosed by government, and made an integral part of the artillery barracks, where our heavy ordnance are tried at long range. The new external wall takes the line of the eastern rampart of Hastein's entrenchment, so that the whole of this relic of antiquity is thus cut up by our paternal government.

It would seem that the Viking of old may have beached his long barques, as did the Greek heroes of Homer's Iliad, and then cut a trench for his protection landward. This first rough work has grown by degrees, and seems to have been permanently occupied, for remains are found on excavating to the depth of fifteen feet; a detachment, we may suppose, has landed, who would hold this remote corner till further reinforcements arrived, then push inwards.

The Saxons seem to have relied on a moat for defence, there being several good specimens of the moated grange about here; all on a small scale. There is an old building, on the shore, in Southchurch parish, called Camper House, held at a nominal rent. It would seem, by the name, to have been the settlement of a famous kemp, or champion, who, being, perhaps, the first to leap ashore in some engagement, has been rewarded by a free allodial possession on the spot.

The people about here know very little about the encampment, but any intending visitor, who inquires for Mr. Hopkins, government clerk of the works, will no doubt be put on the right scent, as I was, most courteously.

Southend, Essex,

September 2nd, 1871.

A. H.

## NOTES ON THE PRE-HISTORIC ARCHÆOLOGY OF EAST DEVON.

At a meeting of the Devonshire Association, on August 24, at Bideford, the Rev. R. Kirwan read a paper on this subject. The origin of bronze, said the writer, could be traced to the fact that copper, from its being more easily recognised as a metal, would be employed for cutting instruments before iron, and to the probability that when copper was short tin might have been employed to supply the deficiency. The mixture once made, it would be found that the remitting metal would have qualities different from either of its parents; and experience would soon dictate the proportions that should be employed. In a barrow at Upton Pyne he had found, in conjunction with Mr. R. M. Lingwood, a bronze pin; a finely-patinated bronze dagger; a small sepulchral vessel or type known as the incense cup, with two lateral perforations for suspension; a grain of carbonised wheat; fifty beads of shale and a bugle-shaped bed of red clay. It was probable that in those beads they detected the first traces of the use of the turning-lathe in England. He had made an investigation of an ancient camp on Peek Hill, near Sidmouth, where he had

found charcoal bones of the pig-deer, sheep, and possibly of the bos longifrons; a quantity of flint flakes and cones; and some implements of bone which were identical in character with those which were discovered in the barrows. Thus he held that the first makers and the barrow builders lived contemporaneously, with or under the same conditions of civilisation. The facts seemed to point out to their being rather a quiet, peaceful people, who erected the forts for the purposes of defence rather than aggression.

A very large collection of bones and other things which he had excavated in Peck Hill were laid upon the table, and inspected with considerable interest.

In the discussion which followed, Mr. Pengelly stated his belief that the object of a large number of the bones being split was to make the fragments into implements, not to extract the marrow.

#### KING STEPHEN'S BURIAL-PLACE, OLD FAVERSHAM ABBEY.

The following appeared as a communication in the *Builder*, the Editor of that publication justly remarking:—"We have no reason to doubt the good faith of the writer, but it is obvious that some additional evidence would be required to confirm this statement."

It may not be generally known that Stephen died at Dover Castle, October 28, 1154, and agreeably to his last dying request his body was conveyed to Faversham, and there laid in the same vault and chantry chapel as that which contained the coffin and remains of his good queen Maud, and his eldest son Eustace. She having been a nun at Romsey Abbey, Hampshire, and dying, was buried in the old abbey here at Faversham, which she so much loved, we are told when living. Her palace is now turned into a greengrocer's shop; the street is still called Court Street, and the house has quite a number of those iron-studded doors, with old-fashioned wooden bolts, curious stringed latches and slides; great capacious fireplace, with old Dutch tiles, and wide enough in the chimney-stack at the back to roast an ox whole. It is panelled throughout with black oaken carved work, representing lilies, vines, &c.; and the windows are of the old style, looking out to the east towards the old abbey, which stood a little further to the south-east in the same street. The site of the church in which the king was buried is now an orchard, with but three or four aged apple-trees growing therein. The little chapel on the north east extremity is still traceable in the grass growing short there, and forming a perceptible square, in which was the king's monument, now shown in the parish church at some little distance from the abbey; but it is, of course, quite empty, being a mere Purbeck square marble raised cenotaph, which was removed from the abbey at the Suppression, when history gives out that the tomb of the king was broken open and his bones turned out on to the abbey floor, whilst the lead of the coffin was sold; the king's bones were then cast into the river or creek which flows close by, up which the flood-tide rolls alternately every twenty-four hours. But, from a careful inspection of the spot wherein the king's body was taken up, I found to my surprise that there was actually not only a perceptible hollow in the crisp grass, which shows whence the leaden coffin of the king was dug up out of the vault, but there were also a few carved stones, mortar, and glazed tiles, left amongst the *débris* thrown out of the vault at the Suppression in 1538; and that curiosity or clumsiness had actually induced the sacrilegious robbers of the king's tomb to leave the two broken upper halves of the king's thigh-bones, with part of collar and shoulder bone, &c., also a piece of the yellow decayed coffin-lid, also a nail or two, behind, sticking in the grass, or in a foot-hole near by, also a piece of his knee-cap, evidently cut by the villains' spades, as also a portion of the king's leaden coffin, which was as large as the palm of my hand, and showed several cuts made by the spade upon it. These precious relics of King Stephen, together with a fragment

of the stained glass from the east window, I managed swiftly to secure, to my infinite satisfaction and delight. It appears quite evident from the "History of Faversham," that the queen's coffin and bones, also those of her son, are still lying beneath the ground of the orchard, which is full of grassy hills and hollows, where the pillars and walls of the old abbey stood, so long since demolished, and all but forgotten. The abbey had three aisles, and was, I find by striding it, over eighty yards in length by forty yards in width; and it had a crypt beneath the choir, also a subterranean passage; also a fishpond, with extensive pastures and park attached. A gold noble was dug up near the old abbey wall a short time ago, some pottery, two or three Roman coins, one of Claudius Caesar's, one of William Rufus, and one of Lady Godiva in the Coventry procession; also a handsome silver one of Caesar Augustus, most excellent ones, in first-rate preservation. I found a portion of King Stephen's chain, trebledone, steel armour dress, a curious iron Norman twisted hinge, a short Norman table-knife, only four and a half inches in length; also two thin iron monks' plates, part of a Norman black jug, with head of the king gilt, and flowers worked upon it, besides glass of a curious pattern; and also part of an iron hurdle, with chain linked, and a cowhide network seat, of rudest construction, to fasten convicts to when drawn at horses' tails to the gibbet or place of public execution; these two curious barbarous horse-sleds are now lying in the old abbey cart-shed, on Mr. Hilton's farm, and were used for the murderers of Thomas Arden in 1538, whom they had barbarously murdered by tying first a towel round his neck, and then cutting his throat with a broad dagger. They then carried the body out of Mr. Chambers's house, dragged it, bleeding ghastly in dripping gore, through the garden, over the abbey wall, and then cast it into the meadow of the abbey farm, where it was found; and for this they were sentenced to be drawn, and then hanged. I have the two thigh-bones of the king now in my possession.

JOHN MELLOR.

#### SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL ARCHÆOLOGY.

The following eminent continental archæologists are announced as constituting papers for the next session.

M. Heinrich Brugsch, F. C. Chabas, Clermont Ganneau and the Chev. de Sauley.

The first part of the society's transactions will be ready early in spring, containing articles by Dr. Birch, J. W. Bosanquet, M. Ganneau, Prof. Lowne, Lieutenant Prideaux, G. Smith, and H. Fox Talbot, Esq.

**A CURIOUS DANCE.**—The *Western Morning News* says, that July 25 was the day appointed for carrying out the directions contained in the will of the late Mr. John Knill, of St. Ives, Cornwall. This gentleman, who was formerly collector of the port, prior to his death in 1788, made a most eccentric will. In the first place he directed that an obelisk should be erected to his memory. Around this monument, known as Knill's steeple, ten virgins, resident in the town, two old women, and a fiddler, dance once every five years. The virgins (who, according to the wishes of the testator, must not exceed ten years of age) each receive 10s. 6d., the old women 10s. 6d. each, and the fiddler one guinea. In addition to these bequests, the oldest man (or his widow) in the parish who has brought up the largest family by his own industry, and without the aid of parochial or other relief, receives 5*l*. The recipient this year was Job Stevens, a fisherman. The last married couple before the quinquennial distribution receives 1*l*. 1*s*. After the ceremonies are over, the trustees, the mayor, collector, and clergyman, with their friends, proceed to dinner, on which a certain sum of money, agreeably to the will, is spent. The day was kept as a general holiday.



## VISIT OF ARCHÆOLOGISTS TO WALTHAM ABBEY.

MORE than 200 of the members of the St. Alban's Archæological Society and the London and Middlesex Archæological Society assembled in the Shire Hall, at Hertford, on the 3rd ult., under the presidency of Mr. Robert Dimsdale, M.P., for the purpose of holding a joint congress. An opening address having been given by the president, papers were read by Mr. Ridgeway Loyd, the Rev. O. W. Davys, and Mr. Pollard. At the close of the meeting the party was conducted over Hertford Castle, to which the members of the societies were admitted by the courtesy of Mr. P. Longmore, after which an excursion took place to the Rye House, where luncheon was provided in the "baronial hall," and the several points of interest attaching to the place were inspected. From thence, after inspecting Nether Hall, the party divided, some of them being conveyed by water and some by rail to Broxbourne and Waltham; at the former the church and the brasses therein were described by Mr. Waller, and at the latter, where the company was joined by several members of the Essex Archæological Society, a public meeting was held in the Lady Chapel of the Abbey, under the presidency of the Rev. J. Francis, vicar, when the point as to whether there is in the present noble and historically interesting Abbey Church any portion of the building erected by Harold was briefly discussed.

The portion of the archaeologists who journeyed by rail reached Waltham at about four o'clock, but those who came down the Lee were much behind the appointed hour for the gathering at Waltham. No time, however, was lost, for on arriving at the Abbey Church the archaeologists found the vicar waiting to receive them. The two curates (the Revs. G. F. Batho and A. Workman), the three churchwardens (Messrs. Demain Saunders, John Ashcombe, and John Clayden), Mr. Charles Hunt, and others, were also in attendance, and severally conducted small parties of the visitors over the building, and the magnificent church was looked at with special interest and pleasurable surprise by those of the company who saw it for the first time.

Having made a somewhat hasty inspection of the magnificent church, the company assembled in the dilapidated Lady Chapel (now used as a school-house), for the purpose of hearing a paper read by C. Bailey, Esq., F.S.A., on "The Abbey of Waltham;" but in that they were disappointed, for some unexplained cause that gentleman was not present. The meeting, however, was proceeded with, although in the absence of Mr. Bailey's paper it was shorn of its chief feature of interest.

The Vicar, on taking the chair, in a few remarks welcomed in his own name and also in the name of the parishioners, the archaeologists to Waltham Abbey.

The Rev. T. Hugo expressed great regret at the absence of Mr. Bailey; but in his absence would say a few words on the church they had just visited. They were all acquainted with the ancient legend, to the effect that a singularly beautiful cross was found that led first to an enclosure and the building of a church by Harold. A distinguished architect, Mr. Burgess, who was known to many of them, who was a scholar and a gentleman, and whom he felt the greatest pleasure in recommending for the erection of a church or schools, believed that a portion of Harold's church was in the present building. For himself he did not believe it was so. He rather attributed the church to Henry the First, or Stephen. Nevertheless, the church was a very beautiful one—even more beautiful than was that which many of them so much admired, the well known church of St. Bartholomew, London.

Mr. Black said that about fifty years ago, a period before railways, he made a sort of pilgrimage to Waltham Abbey. The fine old church was then in a most wretched and dilapidated condition, being plastered and patched here and there; and he could but congratulate the vicar and the

inhabitants of the place on having put this edifice in its present excellent state of preservation. Harold was said to be connected with the building of a church at Waltham Abbey, and he (Mr. Black) was prepared to receive much of the present building as of that period if it could creditably be shown to be such. He also took it for granted that there was some foundation for the legend of the Holy Cross connected with Waltham, and was not inclined to doubt the story of the cross being found below ground, for he knew it was the practice of the Romans to place that emblem both above and below ground, at geometrical points. He had no doubt there was a cross at the point where now stands the Eleanor Cross long before the present structure; and that it was an ornamental cross that took the place of an older one that was intended to preserve a geometrical point there. They were not to discard all statements as untrue because they were not there to see them. As to the blacksmith who was said to have had a dream, perhaps he did dream and perhaps he did not—similar dreams had happened. Whether without dreams or anything miraculous, the cross was found, and instead of being a religious wonder it ought to have been a scientific wonder, as having been laid down with consummate skill, after perhaps thousands of observations, in accordance with the geometrical system of the Romans to mark their boundary lines. That was his humble view of the legend of the Holy Cross when stripped of its varnish.

Mr. J. G. Waller had not visited the Abbey Church for thirty-three years, and now found that since then great and important changes had been made in the building very much for the better. As to the general aspect of the church, the main features in the building he considered did not look older than Henry the First; but if they examined the building they would find some of the masonry of an earlier period than Henry. He placed the date of the church at about 1170.

A gentleman whose name did not transpire, gave it as his opinion that after discoveries that had lately been made in reference to ancient churches, it was almost impossible now to assign dates to ancient architecture.

Sir T. F. Buxton, Bart., of Warlies Park, Waltham Abbey, in a few remarks, observed that the veneration of the parishioners for their old church was such, that notwithstanding what had been stated at that meeting, they would continue to adhere to their belief that Harold had something to do with the building of the edifice now standing.

The Rev. T. Hugo said that he considered Harold was not the author of the pillars and arches.

After a few unimportant remarks by two or three other speakers—

The Chairman said he had heard in that building warm and able discussions between Mr. Parker, Mr. Freeman, and Mr. Burgess, as to whether there was any of Harold's work in the present church. Mr. Freeman thought there was; Mr. Parker thought there was not; and Mr. Burgess hoped and believed there was in the lower part of the east wall. That was all he had been able to gather from their discussions. As to the restoration and reparation, the parishioners got permission to do it, and advanced most of the money. In conclusion, the Vicar said the love he and the parishioners had for the church could not be exceeded by any amount of interest the visitors might show in it.

On the proposition of the Rev. T. Hugo, the archaeologists and visitors presented to the reverend gentleman who had presided at their meeting a vote of thanks for the kindness he had manifested to them on the occasion.

The meeting was then brought to a close, and the archaeologists afterwards went to the Cock Inn, where an excellent tea was provided by Mr. Phipps, and where they were joined by Colonel Palmer and other members of the boating party, most of whom being too late for the meeting went into the Abbey, and, on returning to the Cock Inn, had a renewed discussion.

Mr. N. R. King, the hon. sec. of the Essex Archaeological Society, said that on behalf of the Council of the Essex Society he desired to express the extreme gratification they felt at the visit of the members of the London and Middlesex and the Herts Archaeological Societies within the borders of the county of Essex, and in the name of the Council he begged to offer them a cordial welcome. He regretted that the Lord-lieutenant of the county, Sir Thomas Weston, the President of the Essex Archaeological Society, was unavoidably absent—a regret which he was sure was felt by every one present, as the state of the President's health did not permit him just now to leave home.

Some of the party afterwards went to see the crypt in the Abbey gardens, the ancient gateway, and the so-called Saxon bridge. The party then proceeded to Waltham Cross and examined the beautiful structure erected by King Edward I., in honour of his Queen Eleanor, who died at Harby, in Nottinghamshire. Of all the crosses which were erected at places where the corpse rested at night, only three remain, this being the finest.

#### EVIDENCES OF HAROLD'S WORK.

A gentleman living in Waltham Holy Cross, has communicated the following interesting remarks on this subject:—

It was a real misfortune to be deprived of Mr. Bailly's paper on our Abbey at the recent Congress of the Archaeological Societies, if only that we were thus unable to learn his data and views respecting its antiquity, for while more than one visitor expressed grave doubts of our possessing any work of Harold's period, opinion seemed divided; and our excellent Vicar cited no mean authorities who believe that some of it still exists within the glorious nave.

An unprofessional friend of my own, after having for many years confidently espoused the cause of those who believe we have nothing here earlier than the reign of Henry I., or Stephen, afterwards resided in Normandy, where, influenced by the Abbey of S. Georges de Boscherville, near Rouen, he experienced a change in his views, no longer discrediting the traditional work of Harold at Waltham Holy Cross. Briefly, he reasoned—That William of Normandy founded and nearly completed that Abbey of S. Georges before his conquest in England. That during its erection Harold visited the Norman Court, at which, moreover, Edward the Confessor had been reared. That whereas Durham Cathedral, of the same style as our Abbey, was begun in 1093, that was the work of a bishop, *this* of a king; and that Normandy and our district of England were then in much closer inter-communication than Durham was with either. Hence my friend considered, that if architecture corresponding with that of the Abbey at Waltham could be found in Normandy in Harold's day, there was nothing to prevent his borrowing from it, and engaging Norman skill for the purpose of superintending his work. Others may reason that it is much more probable, an Abbey, so erected, or in course of erection, at Waltham, would have been honoured by our Norman sovereigns, than that a pile so noble and costly should during the reign of any one of them have risen from its foundations on a spot identified with the last of the Saxon kings.

I obtrude no opinions of my own—indeed I possess none of practical or scientific interest; but I am most anxious, as are so many to whom our venerable nave is dear, to learn all that any one of authority can teach us; and I do not conceal my hope of proof being adduced, and sustained by unimpeachable evidence in our Abbey, that *prior to the Conquest*, ecclesiastical architecture, like the laws and manners of our ancestors, was already becoming Anglo-Norman.

#### HAROLD'S CHURCH OF WALTHAM.

We are indebted to Mr. W. Winters, of Waltham Abbey, for the subjoined valuable paper:—

At the joint Congress of the three great Archaeological Societies recently held in the Vestry-room, Waltham Abbey, an amount of discredit was thrown upon the existing portions alleged to be King Harold's work, in the renowned Abbey Church, a circumstance which is much to be regretted, and one which must not be passed by unnoticed. As an admirer of this venerable structure, it is my happiness to be able to defend, in some limited degree, the most sanguine belief that there are still visible fragments of Harold's architecture remaining, which must not be attributed to Hen. I. or Hen. II.—in proof of which I will endeavour to point out a few of the more prominent features connected therewith, based upon the most reliable authority.

The *Munimenta Antiqua* by Mr. King, relates some very important facts on the Saxon Architecture of this Abbey Church, in conjunction with certain documentary evidence which is strongly supported by Edward Augustus Freeman, Esq., Professor Stubbs, and other celebrated historians and architects too numerous to name in this limited space. In this antique pile there are decided and unquestionable specimens of Harold's work, or rather that of Edward the Confessor. There is in the above named folio edition several engravings, showing the round-headed windows ornamented with Saxon zigzag, or indented mouldings, still obvious in the south aisle of the Church—which style of building prevailed during the reign of Edward, the son of Ethelbred (*cir* 1041-2) which is so distinguished at Southwell, Rochester, and was once visible in old St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

The documentary evidence primarily rests upon two or more very early manuscripts; see *infra*. Harold's Charter recites that the monastery was erected in honour of our Lord and of his holy cross, and in memory of Edward and his Queen Editha. No attempt to dispute this has been made; I therefore need not state more on this point, only that the charter was signed by Edward himself with many noblemen and dignities of the time, bearing date A.D. 1062. It argues that the Abbey must have been built by Harold some time before in consequence of the original donation which has no date. It is noticeable that two of the three indented or spiral columns corresponds exactly with those in Durham Cathedral, built Anno 995. See Willis' Survey.

The date of the nave of the present building has attracted great attention, and has been the subject of profound discussions among the most learned of the day, so that I do not presume nor expect to establish any precise data to its erection. However, William of Malmesbury, writing *cir* 1130, when the Norman style was in its zenith, (see Gents Mag. vol. 9 3rd series, p. 47) clearly considered that Edward and Harold built Norman, and that of a splendid character. He states to the effect that Edward's Church was still looked upon as the great model of architecture when he wrote. Indeed, comparison is made between the remains of Edward the Confessor's building, at Westminster, and the Church of Waltham. It appears, then, that no great change took place in the building between 1060 and 1130.

The eminent antiquary Grose favours the belief of its being Harold's work, although he implies that the Saxon or Roman style prevailed even to the 12th century. Waltham continued a college according to Harold's foundation for about 115 years, from 1062 to 1177, when King Henry II. instituted regular canons in the room of secular; and as documentary evidence proves that no very material change occurred in the building, such as an utter demolishing of the old work of Harold and the building of an entire new church, it may be safely considered "that the Romanesque portions of the present church are really portions of the original church built by King Harold."

The two MSS. above mentioned contain the most detailed account of the history of Waltham that is to be found, i.e. "*Vita Haroldi*" and "*De Inventione Sanctæ Crucis nostræ in Monte Acuto et de ductione ejusdem apud Waltham*," this latter has been printed from the MS. in the British Museum with introduction and notes by W. Stubbs, M.A., 1861.

Some eminent architects affirm that the building looks too late for 1060 and not late enough for 1177. It is worth remembering (says Mr. Freeman) that the author of the "*Vita*," who wrote not earlier than 1205, does not drop a word implying that Harold's Church, which he so elaborately describes, was other than the church he had before his eyes. He mentions the change of the foundations under Henry II. as something which had happened within his own memory. He applauds the change of foundations as a great reform; he tells of buildings erected by Henry II.; but hints not a word of a new church. If the church had been rebuilt he surely would have noticed it. There is therefore documentary evidence that supports the fact that Harold built a church at Waltham; but there is no documentary to show that the church was rebuilt temp. Henry II. One early author writes under the patronage of the Queen of Henry I.; but does not intimate one word as to her rebuilding, enlarging, or completing the work of Harold (see "*Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*," vol. ii. p. 12.) My conviction, therefore, is, that no great alterations took place in this building from the time of Harold until the 14th of the reign of Edward I., 1286.

A very valuable notarial instrument is preserved in the Public Record Office which I have examined. It sets forth a mandate of the Abbot (Reginald) of Waltham and the proceedings relative to the repair of the church, A.D. 1286. This document fixes the date (September 6th) of the great alterations that were made in the fabric of the church when it was found that, owing to the bad foundations, the vaulting of the aisles had pushed out the aisle walls and so rendered the building dangerous. The vaulting was then taken down and the aisles and triforium made equal in height. The architect endeavoured to remodel the great arcade by throwing the nave arch and the triforium arch into one; however, that appeared to be a very hazardous undertaking, and was fortunately given up after the western bays had been thus treated (see introduction to this document by Joseph Burt, Esq., published in the *Archæological Journal* xxi. p. 293). This evidently proves to have been the time when the arches of the west end of the nave on either side were so fearfully cut, the marks of which are now visible.

If no material alteration took place (according to those local writers) from the time of Harold to the reign of Henry II., 1177, I would ask, is it possible that the lower part of the nave of Harold's Church and the zigzag mouldings above the windows can be so late as 1286? temp. Edward I. In fact I venture to affirm, according to my scant knowledge of the building, that portions of the nave are the work of Harold. The thickness of the walls at the east end which are filled up with rubble are very early, and which might be adduced in support of the present building being anterior to Henry II.; but to attempt to annihilate *in toto* the certainty of any portion of the existing church being Harold's work is to allow prejudice to overcome reason, and to display an ignorance of the amount of documentary evidence that is couched in the early records of the British Museum.

As to the legend, however credible or incredible the story may now appear respecting the wonder-working crucifix, its virtues were evidently believed in by Harold, and there may possibly be some truth in the legend if stripped of its varnish. Harold probably made choice of Waltham in consequence of the existence of this cross, which was of no small fame, and which had been found in Montacute, in Somersetshire, several years before and placed in the little Church there by Tovi in the days of the old King Cnut.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor will be glad to receive Correspondence on Archaeological matters, and information of discoveries of antiquities, accompanied with drawings of objects, when of sufficient interest, for illustration.]

## SOME ACCOUNT OF THE SINGULAR CUSTOM OF THE ORDER OF "THE GATHERING AND YEARLY MAKING OF THE WARDSTAFF OF THE KING," &amp;c., IN THE HUNDRED OF ONGAR, CO. ESSEX.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

THERE were also lands in Harlow in the same county holden by the service of finding two men to watch the wardstaff; of the keeping of the wardstaff; and of paying ward silver, and doing white service at the wardstaff. This ceremony is stated to have been performed in order to "represent the king's person, and to keep the king's peace." The following account of it is from a manuscript written in the time of John Stoner of Loughton, who had a grant of the hundred for his life, in the 34 Hen. VIII. The services and rents are stated to have been such as were "executed, done, paid, used, observed, and kept," not only in the time of Edward III. and Robert Bruce, King of Scots, but also in the time of his noble progenitors, kings of England long before the Saxons inhabited this realm, as may appear by ancient documents made by Humphrey de Bohun then Earl of Hertford and Essex, and constable of England, lord of the said hundred, dated at Pleshey, 10 July, 11 Ed. III., as also by other notable records, extant, written in the Saxon style (see Wright's History of Essex, vol. ii. p. 328).

"First, the bailiffe of the said libertie, or hundred, shall gather and yearly make the said wardstaffe of some willow bough growing in Abbasse Rothing-wood, the Sunday next before Hock Monday, which shall contain in length iii qtrs of a yard, and viii inches round in compass thereabout. And hee shall convey the same ymmediately into the mannor place of Ruckwood-Hall, in Abbasse Roding afores'd, were the lord of the said manor for the tyme being shall reverently the same receive into his house and shall rowle itt upp in a faire fine linnen cloth, or towell and so lay itt upon some pillowe or cushion on a table or cubbard standing in the chiefe or highest place in the hall of the said manor place, there to remaine untill the said bailiffe shall have relieved and refreshed himself. And when the said bailiffe shall see convenient tyme to dep'te [depart] he shall convey the same staffe by sunne shininge unto Ward-hatch Lane besides Long Barnes in Rothing aforesaid, when and where the said lord of Ruckwood-Hall and all and everie other tennant and tennants, land-owners, which by reason of their tenure doe hold their lands likewise by service royall, to watch and ward the said staffe thereupon convenient summons and warning to be given unto them yearly by the said lord of Ruckwood-Hall, for the time being, with their full ordinarie number of able men well harnished with sufficient weapons shall attend. Where upon the lord of Ruckwood-Hall shall then and there yerarly at his p'per cost and charges have readie prepared a great rope, called a barr, with a bell hanging on the end of same which he shall cause to be extended overthwart the said lane, as the custom hath bene, to stay and arrest such people as would pass by. Att the end of which said barr, not farr from the said bell shall be laid down reverently the said staffe upon a pillowe or cushion, on the grounde which done forthwith the said bailiffe shall severally call the names of all the aforesaid tennants landowners, who shall present their said ordinarie number of men accordingly. Then shall the said bailiffe in the King our soveraigne lord's name straightlie charge and comand them and everie of them to

watch and keep the ward in due silence, soe that the king be harmless and the contrie scapeless, untill the sunne arising, when good houre shall be for the said lord of Ruckwood-Hall to repaire unto the said staffe, who in the presence of the whole watch, shall take the same staffe into his hand, and shall make upon the upper rind of the same with a knife, a score, or notch, as a mark or token, declaring their loyall service done for that year in this behalf. And soe shall deliver the said staffe unto the bailiffe, sending it unto the lord, or land owner, of the manor of Fiffeild, or unto the tenant resiant, saying this notable narracon of the wardstaffe hereafter written in the Saxon tongue; which done, they may hale up the said barr, and depart at their pleasure:—

“THE TALE OF THE WARDSTAFFE.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>“Iche ayed the staffe by lene.<br/>Yane stoffe Iche toke by lene<br/>By lene Iche will tellen<br/>How the staffe have I got<br/>Yottle staffe to me com<br/>As he houton for to don<br/>Faire and well iche him under-<br/>fingt<br/>As iche houton for to don<br/>All iche ther on challenged<br/>That thearon was for to challenge<br/>Namelicthe this and this<br/>And all that there was for to<br/>challenge<br/>Payer iche him upp dede<br/>As iche houton for to don<br/>All iche warnyd to the ward to<br/>cum<br/>That thereto houton for to cum<br/>By sunne shining<br/>We our roope theder brouton<br/>A roope celtan as we houton for<br/>to don</p> | <p>And there waren and wakedon<br/>And the ward soc kept<br/>That the king was harmless<br/>And the country scapeless<br/>And a morn when itt day was<br/>And the sun arisen was<br/>Faiher honour waren to us toke<br/>All us houton for to don<br/>Fayre on the staffe we scorden<br/>As we houton for to don<br/>Fayre we him senden<br/>Hether we hoven for to send<br/>And zif thear is any man<br/>That this witt siggen can<br/>Iche am here ready for to don<br/>Ayens himself iche one<br/>Yother mind him on<br/>Yender midtyn feren<br/>Als we ther waren<br/>Sir by leave take this staffe<br/>This is the tale of the wardstaffe.”</p> |
|--|---|

After several other watches, this wardstaffe was to be carried through the towns and hundreds of Essex to a place called “Atte Wode,” and to be there thrown into the sea.

W. WINTERS.

Waltham Abbey, August 31.

THE STOWMARKET EXPLOSION AND THE  
PAINTED GLASS IN COMBS CHURCH.

To the Editor of “THE ANTIQUARY.”

SIR,—The calamitous gun-cotton explosion which took place at Stowmarket on the 11th August must have been the cause of many and widely different apprehensions. Full accounts have appeared in the papers of the destruction of life and property, but no report has at present I believe been made showing the effect of the explosion on Combs Church.

Combs Church is well known to Suffolk antiquaries as possessing some of the most beautiful painted glass in the country; and, in order to ascertain the amount of injury this church had received, I visited it last Monday.

The factory, now a wreck, stood about one and a-half mile N.E. of Combs Church, and about the same distance S. of Stowmarket Church; and both churches were much exposed to the violence of the shock, no obstacles in the Gippy Valley (in which the factory stood) breaking the shock from Stowmarket Church, and none of importance breaking the shock from Combs Church, which stands upon a hill.

Combs Church consists of chancel (Dec. period), nave, N. and S. aisles, N. and S. clerestories, and tower, all perpendicular.

There are thirty windows in all, fourteen on the N. side of the church, sixteen on the S. As the factory stood to the N.E. of the church, the windows along its N. side are those which chiefly have suffered, all the large northern windows being much broken, and every alternate window in the N. clerestory being broken, which is remarkable. There

are a few fragments of painted glass in the upper parts of these windows, but not much of any account. Most of the best glass appears to have been collected together some years since, and is now to be seen in the middle window of the S. aisle; and, I am happy to say, that owing to the fortunate position of this window no further injury is done to it by the explosion than the loss of a fragment or two here and there, which perhaps had not been well glazed when (as the sexton informed me) it was last “wrought over again.”

The glass, which I believe to be of the fifteenth century, is of such great interest and excellence, and has so narrowly escaped utter destruction, that I think your readers may like to have a short account of it. I believe some drawings of it have been sent to the Archaeological Association, but I have no records of their proceedings or any other book just now to refer to. The window is in three compartments—eastern, middle, and western—being divided by two mullions, which run through to the top.

Taking the middle compartment first, we see at the top—

(1.) — son.”

(2.) “Salmon.”

(3.) Composite.

(4.) An angel watching man giving food to a cripple: on a scroll—

Brodyr . gaur . mete . anow . y<sup>t</sup> ...

For . metryr . E . huggr . sarr ...

(5.) Composite: including bended figures with a discipline.

(6.) Decil, remarkable figure, bat-like wings, blue grey colour, tinged yellow, looking on a scene. Perhaps David and Bathsheba, or some such subject.

Next, the compartment to the west:—

(7.) Figure, “Boo.”

(8.) Figure, “Obrd.”

(9-10.) Composite.

(11.) { Figure, “Manasses Rex.”

“Josiah Rex.”

(12.) Scene—A female being dragged into castle, followed by four men, one carrying sword.

(13.) Scene—A female brought by a man to large tub of liquid; a second man with fork brings wood together for a fire.

And, lastly, the compartment to the east:—

(14.) Figure—“Aminadab.”

(15.) Figure—Aram or Abram.

(16-17.) Composite—her brnt...sut t. fdr.

(18.) { Figure—rias rex.”

Figure—“Ezechias rex.”

(19.) Scene—Angel watching man giving a basin of soup to another man; behind, a woman with jug in one hand and basin in other, on scrolls—

“E am thyrsty . t . ful . drye . y . wpsse (? likewise)

“Waur . {<sub>b</sub> } er . dryke . py . for . {<sub>b</sub> } y . y<sup>t</sup> . doth.”

(20.) Scene—A bishop holding in left hand pastoral staff blessing with right hand font filled with water. Woman behind him. Man on one side of font; on other a second woman holding a nude child for Holy Baptism.

Besides this windowful of painted glass, figures of O. T. Kings may be seen in some other windows, all probably of the same date, and all showing the same excellence in design and execution.

W. H. SEWELL.

Yaxley Vicarage, Suffolk, Aug. 16, 1871.

THE COIN ROOM, BRITISH MUSEUM.

To the Editor of “THE ANTIQUARY.”

SIR,—A letter of introduction from any local magistrate or beneficed clergyman, introducing G. R. H. as a respectable person in their knowledge, addressed to the keeper of



the coins at the British Museum, will suffice for the purpose of inspecting any particular coin, coins, or even series of coins; but no person can obtain power to examine the collection *freely*, except by especial favour of the department. It would take a very long time to go *seriatim* through the coin room.

It is a great pity that the coins are not more freely shown, but they run up to a great value, possibly two millions sterling, and the trustees are proportionably jealous of their safe custody.

It appears to me that all purposes would be served by showing some thousands of coins enclosed within double frames of thick glass, closed with iron rims and with metal divisions, so that obverse and reverse might be alternately inspected by turning the frame; which, in point of fact, would be a transparent tray. Eight such trays might be swung by stout iron rods to an upright standard and made to revolve at will.

All persons are familiar with that useful piece of furniture called a "dinner waggon;" well, two lofty dinner waggons, self-connected, with shelves rising or falling like a "lift," and with a motion from one "waggon" to the other, will give a clear notion of the "coin-shower" I have in view. But, further, each shelf must be socketed into a pair of movable or jointed elbows, so that it may be reversed, or viewed at a different angle for the sake of light, without disturbing the series.

I am, sir, yours, &c.,  
A. H.

August 29, 1871.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

SIR,—A gentleman in the country has kindly sent me a coin for my acceptance. Though I do not collect modern coins, but only ancient Greek, this one has so puzzled all those to whom I have shown it, that should any of your correspondents be able to give an account of its origin I shall be glad.

The coin is evidently of modern date, and probably struck at the end of the last or beginning of this century, and has all the appearance of a token, and may be a colonial one, but there is no specimen of it in the British Museum.

I annex the description of this copper coin.

*Obv.*—MAXIMVS. Small star under bust. Naked head looking to left.

*Rev.*—NON PIVS VLTRA. Size, 5½.

Your obedient servant,  
C. FOX.

P.S.—The coin was dug up near the rectory of Wylecaston, in Lincolnshire.

September 4, 1871.

#### COINS AND MEDALS OF OLIVER CROMWELL.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

SIR,—I shall be glad to hear from any collectors of English coins and medals who may possess any relating to, or with the bust of, Oliver Cromwell. Having now printed a brief descriptive list, I will forward it postage free, upon application, to any one who is willing to aid in my object of collecting materials for a complete description of Cromwell's coins and medals.

This short catalogue is intended for comparison with the specimens in other collectors' cabinets, in order to ascertain the varieties which now exist.

I subjoin my address, so that the readers of "THE ANTIQUARY," who take an interest in the subject may be enabled to communicate direct with me.

HENRY W. HENFREY.

15, Eaton Place, Brighton.

#### ADMISSION TO MEDAL ROOM, BRITISH MUSEUM.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

SIR,—Your correspondent "G. R. H." wishes to know to whom he ought to make application for an order to view coins in the British Museum.

Let him address a letter to J. WINTER JONES, Esq., F.R.S., British Museum, stating what class of coins he desires to inspect, and enclosing a letter of recommendation from some well known person.

If the recommendation is deemed satisfactory he will probably obtain immediate admission to the medal room, for a more business-like, gentleman-like man than Mr. Winter Jones, never presided over a Government Department.

I enclose my card, and am, sir,  
Your constant Reader,

ONE WHO HAS HAD EXPERIENCE OF OFFICIALS  
WHO STUDIED "HOW NOT TO DO IT."

September 2, 1871.

#### PROVINCIAL.

##### CHICHESTER.

INTERESTING DISCOVERY IN THE LADY CHAPEL.—A discovery of some interest has just been made during the progress of the restoration. During the last visit of Mr. Scott, the architect, he directed that some brickwork should be removed, which seemed to fill up an old window on the northern side, immediately over the monument of Bishop Bickley, and a curious coved recess has been opened out, wherein vestiges of very ancient paintings may be traced. The subject seems to have been floral, treated conventionally and it is regarded as belonging to the twelfth century.

##### DEVON.

SOUTH BRENT.—The work of restoring the parish church of South Brent, Devon, has been brought to a termination. The original church, of the Norman period, was built in the 11th century, cruciform in shape, the present tower being the centre, and a curious old building on the south side, now used as a vestry, the transept. The other portion of the church is of more recent date, built in the 15th century. A curious fact in connection with the church is, that originally stone benches around the pillars, portions of which still remain, and stone seats in the windows, afforded all the sitting accommodation deemed necessary.

##### ESSEX.

DISCOVERY OF A STONE COFFIN AT HIGH ONGAR.—A few weeks since, as some labourers were cutting a trench on a farm road at High Ongar, they discovered about 6 in. from the surface a stone coffin, the lid of which was 6 in. thick, and 6 ft. 8 in. long by 2 ft. 2 in. wide. The lid has a slight ridge in the middle, but no inscription. On examining the interior of the coffin, three or four bones were found. The coffin appears to have been chiselled out of a block of Portland stone, of the size of the lid, and about 18 in. deep, leaving the sides, ends, and bottom, 4 in. in thickness, the inside of the coffin measuring 6 ft. by 18 in. The spot where the discovery was made is nearly a quarter of a mile from the church, and nearly one mile east of Ongar Castle Mount, on the summit of which a few bricks only now remain.

## ELY.

**WISBECH MUSEUM.**—The following additions have been made to the collection:—A bronze crucifix, found at Crowland Abbey, mounted on a piece of the old oak door of 1452; portrait of Charles I. on a panel found under the lead of the roof of Walsoken Church in 1858; bronze celt, found at Peterborough; bronze relics found on the site of the Wisbech Corn Exchange, 1858; mediæval head and jug found in the Nene; Roman vase found at March; a peculiarly-shaped bottle, from the collection of Sir Algernon Peyton; china cup and saucer, and a bronze tinder-box, from Dunton Hall, 1774; crystallized quartz with carbonate of iron, from Cornwall; and a copy of the *Cambridge Chronicle*, July 12, 1811.

## HASTINGS.

**FACTS FOR GEOLOGISTS.**—As a large pile, used in the construction of a new pier at Hastings, was being driven into its position, it came upon a substance so hard as to break off the massive screw at the end of the pile. The obstruction was found to be a large trunk of oak in the submarine forest which exists off the town. It was afterwards drawn up, and measures three feet across at the widest part, by twenty-four feet in length. It weighs about two tons, and is said to be the largest yet found. The pier-head is evidently in the very heart of the forest, as several smaller trees have been previously taken up, and many others are scattered about.

## LINCOLN.

**RESTORATION OF ST. MARY-LE-WIGFORD CHURCH.**—The restoration of this edifice progresses under the supervision of the architects. The cleansing and reparation were much needed, the earth in the interior being full of human bones to within a few inches of the boarded floors. About fifteen inches deep of this earth having been removed, some ancient sepulchral slabs were exposed to view, at the original floor level; one, of Purbeck marble, contained three inscribed brasses. Several fragments of slabs have been found, with many parts of inscriptions, commemorating former Mayors of Lincoln. A stone coffin, with its occupant, was discovered under the western arch of the chancel arcade. The west end, and western portion of the aisle wall, are built nearly wholly of broken pieces of hewn stone. The shafts, and elaborately-carved caps to the interior of some of the windows, seem to be portions of a more ancient building, of which the arcade pillars are a specimen. Pieces of similar moulded shafts, fragments of beautifully-carved caps, in excellent preservation, were found used as rubble in the walls taken down. A number of intricately-moulded archstones, found in the walls, are being utilised in the arches over two of the windows on the north side; they harmonise with the shafts and caps to the inner jambs of the same windows, and will be an interesting feature in the restoration. To exemplify the reckless manner in which the north wall was put together, the base of one of the window shafts was found, when taken out, to be an abacus belonging to a cap, turned upside down, and used as a base; it is now put to its proper use in the restoration of the north doorway. The lower part of the chancel aisle wall, and the deep courses of facing-stone adjoining, are built of old stone coffins. The nave and chancel walls present more of these features, and the materials used in their construction do not appear to have been disturbed. On the arch of an ancient walled-up doorway is an effective looped kind of decoration, painted in deep red, and on the walls are remains of a diapered pattern, formed by chocolate-coloured diagonal lines. Many scraps of the ancient stained-glass have been picked up.

## MAIDSTONE.

**A GIFT TO MAIDSTONE.**—Through the kindness of the late Mr. Randall and other gentlemen, aided by the Town Council, Maidstone possesses a museum. Since the opening of the new wing at Chillington House, gifts have poured in from all quarters, so that the present building is becoming insufficient for its purpose. The natural history collection of Mr. Julius Brenchley has been for many months unavailable to the general public for this reason, and has been stored in the unused wing, which, through the liberality of the executors of Mr. Randall, and the Messrs. Mercer, has been presented to the town. An effort has been made to raise a sufficient sum to entirely rebuild this portion of the structure, and gentlemen have come forward for the purpose. It is now proposed by Mr. Julius Brenchley to present to the town some four acres of land adjoining, originally, a portion of the grounds of the ancient Manor House. A road is to be constructed, leading into Week Street, through Bone Alley; and St. Faith's Green, which is the property of the town, is to be thrown in, and the whole will be laid out as a public garden.

## ROCHESTER.

**ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL.**—The work of restoring the cathedral, under the direction of Mr. Gilbert Scott, is proceeding with good speed. The decayed clerestory windows of the nave are now being restored. The earth has been removed around the east end of the building to ascertain if the foundations are in a proper state, and it has been found that they are quite safe. In several parts of the cathedral ancient windows were blocked up with stone, and in other cases former "restorations"—if such a word can be used in connection with the work—consisted of making windows, &c., not consistent with the original character of the building.

## STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK.

No doubt the awful calamity which recently occurred here must have affected everything near it, and it was not likely that the interesting buildings connected with archaeology would escape. The fine old church which must have been reared many centuries ago, has suffered sadly. The injuries were much more extensive than was at first sight supposed, every window having to come out, and the tower is also cracked very considerably on the east side, rendering it very dangerous if something is not speedily done. It is a cathedral-like building, of the early English decorated style, and is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Mary; but its chief fame consists in a monument to Dr. Young, who was once vicar of the parish and tutor to the immortal Milton. In 1865 it underwent a thorough restoration at a cost of 2000*l*. There is, however, another object of antiquarian interest near by, which, perhaps, is even more attractive. This is the vicarage, part of which dates before the reign of Elizabeth. Here is the room in which Milton visited his tutor, and which (thanks to the good sense of its subsequent owners) is still kept up in the olden manner. In the garden also there is a mulberry tree of large size which still bears the poet's name. As far as we can ascertain, no damage has been done to the rectory.

## SCOTLAND.

**DISCOVERY OF AN ANCIENT URN.**—A few weeks ago an ancient urn, containing human remains, was turned up in a field on the farm of Burrance, Lochmaben. Mr. Scott, the tenant of the farm, attempted to remove it, but in doing so it fell to pieces. It appeared to be capable of holding from two to two and a half gallons of water. It was surrounded by two rings, and the space from these to the top was ornamented. It was found in an isolated position, not

more than six inches below the surface. The ancient Roman road from Carlisle is in the neighbourhood.

A CIRCUMSTANCE probably unexampled in the history of longevity is related from Edinburgh. There is now living in that city a child one year old "whose father and mother, two grandfathers and two grandmothers, and four great grandfathers and four great grandmothers are all living." The ages of one of the couples of the child's great grandparents are respectively eighty-three and eighty-six years, and they have been married for sixty-one years. The ages of another couple are for each eighty-one years; a third couple are respectively eighty-one and seventy-seven years old, and the youngest of the four great grand-parental couples are seventy-one and seventy-three. In addition to these direct lines of ancestry, the child in question has "four aunts and five uncles, and thirteen grand-aunts and eight grand-uncles, all in life." With so many rills of healthy blood running into his veins, what a paragon of high health ought not this favoured child to be.

## FOREIGN.

### PARIS.

THE VENUS OF MILO AT THE LOUVRE.—The following was the manner in which this *chef-d'œuvre* came into the possession of France:—In 1820, a Greek peasant of the island of Milo—the ancient Melos of the Cyclades—in digging the ground, found it buried, and broken in three fragments, in a recess about 7 or 8 feet below the surface. The French consul at Milo was then M. Brest, whom the peasant informed of his treasure, and offered to sell it for a small sum. The functionary, who knew little about the fine arts, referred to M. Duval d'Ailly, commander of the French Government transport, the *Emulation*, then at the island. The latter proposed to purchase the statue immediately and remove it to his vessel. But this proceeding was too hasty for the formalist, M. Brest, who wrote a letter to the Marquis de Rivière, Ambassador for Louis XVIII. at the Porte. This communication was lost on the way, but, fortunately for France, M. Dumont d'Urville arrived at that moment in Milo to conduct a hydrographical survey. He saw the statue, recognised at once the value of it, and sent a special courier to the Marquis de Rivière. The ambassador despatched Count de Marcellus to Milo, with instructions to effect the purchase. But all those formalities had taken time, and when the count arrived in the island the Venus had been shipped on board a Turkish brig, and was about to leave for Constantinople. He immediately applied to the prime, who, pressed by his insistence and even menaces, ordered the statue to be landed and sold by auction. This was what Count de Marcellus desired; and having become possessor of the treasure, he started for France with it, and did not stop until he had reached Paris. He had bought it in the name of the Marquis de Rivière, who transferred his bargain to Louis XVIII., and the King presented the statue to the nation. Such is the history of one of the most exquisite specimens of Greek art in the world.

THE TUILERIES.—It is stated that an American, Mr. Harris Posler, has just made M. Thiers an offer to rebuild the Palace at his own cost. The only conditions put forth by Mr. Posler in return for his royal generosity are these:—1st. One of the wings of the monument to be named after him. 2nd. Apartments looking over the gardens to be reserved to him for lifetime, and also a standing invitation to all the ceremonies and fêtes that will be given by any governments that may hold the place in succession. Mr. Posler is waiting for a favourable reply. His architect has already exhibited plans and estimates, amounting to about 310,000*l.*

THE Union states that the magnificent Abbey of La Trappe, near Montagne (Orne) has just been partly destroyed by fire.

WHERE were the *virtuosi* who haunt the sale-rooms of Christie and Manson, and prowled about the regions of Wardour Street, when the sale of Auber's effects took place the other day in Paris? The things went, they say, for "next to nothing," the highest bid for any single lot being only 322*fr.* There was *inter alia*, a portrait of Madame Anna Thillon, painted by Horace Vernet, which was knocked down for 38*fr.*, and another of the Duke of Orleans, by Daubigny, which went for 225*fr.* People who are fond of picking-up bargains ought to look out for the sale of the late Emperor's property, in the event of M. Alfred Naquet's proposal before the Assembly being carried, that the property in question "be sold for the benefit of the poor."

BOOK-HUNTERS may find some sport in Paris just now. The Americans, who are greedy collectors of old books, are flocking to Paris in the hope of securing cheaply a harvest of ancient tomes spared from the flames of the Communists. Old parchments are also being raked out of the ashes, and pounced upon by the covetous of such wares. Among the most persevering collectors of parchments is Mrs. Jefferson Davis, wife of the ex-President of the Confederate States. They say that three agents are just now employed by that lady to buy up all the vellum manuscripts they can lay hands on. Some of M. Thiers' property is turning up in unexpected quarters. A volume entitled "*Les Guerres de la Chine*," containing a famous set of engravings executed for Louis XV., and which was considered the gem of Thiers' Indian collection, was purchased lately in the street by an American gentleman for "little or nothing," both buyer and seller being quite unaware of its market value.

THE Missal of Jacques Juvenal des Ursins, one of the most precious gems of French mediæval art, has been destroyed by the burning of the Hotel de Ville of Paris. This missal was for some time in the possession of M. Ambroise-Firmin Didot, to whom we owe the fact that some trace of this valuable MS. is still preserved, through a *brochure* published in 1861, in which he gave a detailed description of it. The Missal, which was also known under the name of Missal Pontifical, was begun by John Duke of Bedford, brother-in-law of the Duke of Burgundy, third son of our King Henry the Fourth, and Regent of France during the minority of Henry the Sixth; and the MS. was only completed by Jacques Juvenal des Ursins, whose name was given to it.

## REVIEWS.

*The Bookbuyer's Guide*, 1 Ivy Lane, Paternoster Row.

THIS quarterly serial has just been issued, and manifests evident signs of improvement. Its judicious comments on new books are impartially and concisely written, and will prove extremely serviceable in directing students and general readers in their selection of works for perusal. In its typographical appearance and entire getting-up, this literary guide is far superior to any similar publication. Its great utility renders it indispensable in every library, and must largely increase its home, foreign, and colonial circulation.

*Debrett's Titled Men: a Pocket Companion to the Peerage, Baronetage, and the House of Commons, 1871-2.* London: Dean & Son, Ludgate Hill, E.C.

THIS annual publication has recently made its appearance, and will be found a very handy book of reference respecting the aristocracy. It is carefully compiled, giving all the leading facts ordinarily required, and it is corrected down to the day of publication. No other shilling work gives so much matter, and the heraldic emblazonment of borough arms, with engravings of corporation seals, greatly enhance the utility of this convenient court guide.

## MISCELLANEA.

**SALE OF CURIOSITIES.**—The *Pall Mall Gazette* has the following:—"To-day Messrs. Puttick and Simpson sell by auction a collection of miscellaneous antiquities and curiosities, including, among other things, relics of the first Napoleon, the 'head of a New Zealand chief, finely tattooed, in case, rare;' a Fiji idol, a German executioner's axe, 'rare;' and the 'heel bone (*calcis*) of King Edward IV., found in forming the royal vault under St. George's Chapel, Windsor, under glass shade, fully authenticated.' The catalogue does not add the usual 'rare' after this item. It cannot, of course, be called unique; one other is known, in private possession—viz., the fellow-heel which still rests in the tomb at Windsor. The writer of the London *Guardian* 'Table Talk' asks, 'Can nothing be done to restore this relic, which we fear is really authentic, to the place from which it came?' The writer adds, 'While on this pleasing subject we may add a note which will give satisfaction to the minds of some of our readers. The head of Sir Thomas More, of which his daughter Margaret Roper contrived to obtain possession, still remains in her tomb at Canterbury, under St. Dunstan's Church, where it was placed by her dying directions. It originally lay on her breast wrapped in lead; but some fifty years ago, the vault being opened, it was removed to a recess in the wall at one side; and there it is now, having been seen by our informant, a distinguished F.S.A., not very long since. The body of Sir Thomas was buried in Chelsea Church, in a tomb which he is said to have made in the days of his prosperity.'"

**ART EXHIBITION AT LIVERPOOL.**—Liverpool has now an Exhibition of Paintings in oil and water colours in many respects superior to anything previously shown in the town. Formerly there were art exhibitions under the auspices of public societies, but latterly the only opportunities afforded of inspecting works of art have been provided by private firms or individuals; and though in some instances the collections have contained paintings of a very high order of merit, many of the works shown have been but little above mediocrity. In this Exhibition, however, the Town Council guaranteed that the collection should comprise only works of high order. Four capacious rooms in the Free Library and Museum have been devoted to the Exhibition, which opened on September 4.

**THE RECORDS OF THE ARTILLERY.**—Captain F. Duncan, who holds the appointment of Superintendent of the Royal Artillery Records, and who is about to write a history of the regiment, obtained some months since the necessary permission from the Commander-in-Chief and the Secretary of State to inspect and make use of any manuscripts that might be found in the offices of the Royal Artillery or in the Tower library. In prosecuting his researches Captain Duncan chanced upon some highly interesting papers connected with the American War of Independence, which throw quite a new light upon that subject. The importance, in a literary point of view, attached to this discovery is so great that Captain Duncan has sought and obtained permission to proceed to America, in order to investigate any documents that may be found in Boston or at West Point.

In the neighbourhood of Barking Creek, and just below the opening made for the Dagenham Dock, a discovery has been made of some interesting remains of an ancient forest, which appears to have at one time occupied part of the river bed. The roots and trunks of the trees, which are only disclosed at low spring tides, are in process of conversion into peat, and form an admirable study for geologists.

The skull and antlers of what must have been an elk of very large proportions were dug out of a waste bog, which is being reclaimed in Cornula, near Dungannon, a few days ago. The horns were very massive, measuring 20 inches round the base, and 6 feet from tip to tip. They were imbedded in marl, and were in a good state of preservation.

**THE CROMWELL ARMS, ELY.**—This well-known inn will soon cease to be such, the proprietor, Mr. J. Rushbrook, having sold it as a private residence without the brewing plant. This is the house in which Oliver Cromwell is said to have resided; hence, the title of the inn.

**OBITUARY.**—Professor Wilhelm Zahn, who acquired celebrity in reference to the excavations at Herculaneum and Pompeii, died at Berlin on the 22nd ult.

**S. GEORGE'S CHURCH, HANOVER SQUARE.**—This very fashionable church, built 1724, is undergoing extensive alterations, under the superintendence of Mr. B. Ferrey, F.S.A. The old-fashioned sittings are reduced to a more modern height, the pulpit and reading desk lowered and made smaller, and all the old obstructions, such as curtains and screens, cleared away, leaving many of the beauties of the church visible, which have in former years been allowed to be covered up.

WE regret to learn that, in consequence of a great fire at Vathi, in Samos, the large collection of antiquities formed by Mr. Marks, the English Consul, during many years, has been destroyed.

THERE is a prospect of the Government of Madras taking measures for the examination of the antiquities of the Neilgherry Hills.

A COIN of the Emperor Licinius has been dug up in Madras.

**CAMBRIAN ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.**—The Rev. D. Silvan Evans, B.D., rector of Llanymawddwy, Merionethshire, it is understood, has been appointed to succeed the late Rev. H. Longueville Jones as editor of the "Archæological Cambrensis," the journal of the Cambrian Archæological Association.

THE discovery is announced to have been made at Milan of the porphyry sarcophagus containing the bones of St. Ambrose, which were deposited therein, along with the remains of San Gervasio and Protaso, in the year 1014—that is, six centuries after the death of the great archbishop. The sarcophagus was concealed in the crypt of the Basilica, and came to light the other day when the position of the high altar was being changed.

**REYMER'S CHRONOLOGY** furnishes the following information:—"Holy water was first used in A.D. 120; penance was introduced in 157; monachism in 348, the Latin mass in 394, extreme unction in 550; belief in purgatory was first inculcated in 593; invocation of the Virgin and the Saints began in 715; kissing the Pope's foot dates from 809, the canonization of holy persons deceased from 993, the baptism of bells from 1000, the celibacy of the clergy from 1015 (but not generally insisted on till 50 or 60 years later); indulgences were introduced in 1119; dispensations and the elevation of the Host in 1200; the Inquisition was established in 1204; auricular confession dates from 1215, and Papal infallibility was proclaimed in 1870.

**DISCOVERY OF ROMAN PAVEMENT.**—During the past week some workmen engaged in excavating for the foundation of a new building in Bishopsgate Street, opposite Crosby Hall, came across a piece of Roman pavement, some two or three yards in extent. A portion of it is still exposed to view. It is the common red tesserae, and though, on that account, is not remarkable for beauty—as was the portion found some time since in the Poultry—is interesting, as all "finds" of a similar character are, as indicating that the spot was a part of the Roman City. The depth at which the pavement was found is about fifteen feet below the present footway, and some fifty or sixty feet distant from it. Pavements have been found at different times under Crosby Hall, and at the corner of Camomile Street, Bishopsgate, in Threadneedle Street, and other places in the vicinity.